the Bodo issues, the Central Government has initiated peace talks on tripartite basis involving the representatives of the Central Government, Government of Assam and Bodo Liberation Tiger (BLT). These are continuing. There are reports that the Non-Bodos (Tribals) are apprehensive about their Socio-economic interests and Political rights in the proposed Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) area. The Government is committed to protect the democratic rights and the socio-economic interests of all sections of the Society.

The Government has taken various steps to deal with extremist forces in Assam. These include, *inter alia,* deployment of Para-military Forces and Army in the state, coordinated action by Army, Para Military Forces and State Police against insurgent groups declaration as unlawful association under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967, declaration of the entire State of Assam as "disturbed area" under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958, reimbursement of security related expenditure to the state Government and modernization/up-gradation of State Police Force. Regular review of the situation both at state and Central Government level is being made.

Construction of small Hydro-Power Projects

†*317. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to give incentives for the construction of the hydro power projects producing 50 to 75 megawatt of electricity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is a fact that small power projects in the country are more beneficial that the big power projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to give incentives specifically for hydro power projects of 50 to 75 Megawatts capacity. However, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources have announced various incentive schemes for the development of small hydro power projects up to 25 MW capacity. Details of these incentives are given in Statement (*See* below).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) The benefits and tariffs of smaller hydro-electric projects are not necessarily better than those of larger projects. The costs, benefits and tariffs are site specific for hydroelectric projects. Small hydro projects can be developed in a shorter time frame as well as at a lower capital investment and involve lesser environment and rehabilitation & resettlement problems. Small and mini hydro projects have the potential to provide energy in remote and hilly areas where extension of grid system is either not possible or is un-economical. Larger projects, particularly multi purpose projects provide tremendous benefits in the nature of power, irrigation, drinking water, flood control, and are also advantageous in terms of economy of scale besides providing peaking power even in the lean season, and opening up other economic opportunities in the areas of their location.

Statement

Incentives under Small Hydro Power programme

Schemes	Areas	Below 500 KW	500 KW upto 1 MW	Above 1 MW & upto 5 MW	Above 5 MW & upto 15 MW	Above 15 MW & upto 25 MW
Survey & Investigation	Plain	Upto Rs. 0.75 lakhs		Upto Rs. 1.00 lakhs	Upto Rs. 1.50 lakhs	
	Hilly	Upto Rs. 1.00 lakhs		Upto Rs. 2.00 lakhs	Upto Rs. 3.00 lakhs	
Detailed Project Report	Plain	Upto Rs. 0.75 lakhs		Upto Rs. 1.00 lakhs	Upto Rs. 1.50 lakhs	
	Hilly	Upto Rs. 0.75 lakhs		Upto Rs. 1.00 lakhs	Upto Rs. 2.00 lakhs	
Interest Subsidy for Commercial Projects	Plain	5.00%		2.50%	2.00%	1.50%
	Hilly & NE region	7.50%		5.00%	3.00%	2.00%
Capital Subsidy for Govt. Sector Projects	N E Region, Sikkim,	90% cost of the project up to Rs. 75000/- KW	90% cost of the project upto to Rs. 60000/- KW	75% cost of the project up to Rs. 45000/- KW	Equipment Cost +25% of Civil Cost limited to Rs. 22.50 crores/ project	Nil
	Middle Himalayas, Ladakh, A&N	Equipment Cost +50% of Civil Cost upto Rs. 45,000/KW		Equipment Cost+ 25% of Civil Cost upto Rs. 3.00 crores/MW	Equipment Cost +25% of Civil Cost limited to Rs. 15 crores/ project	Nil

Schemes	Areas	Below 500 KW	500 KW upto 1 MW	Above 1 MW & upto 5 MW	Above 5 MW & upto 15 MW	Above 15 MW & upto 25 MW
	Other Areas (*only notified hilly regions*)	Equipment Cost +50% of Civil Cost upto Rs. 30,000/KW		Equipment Cost+ 25% of Civil Cost upto Rs. 1.5 crores per MW	Equipment Cost +25% of Civil Cost limited to Rs. 7.5 crores/ project	Nil
Renovation & Modernisation of Old Projects		Upto Rs. 2 crores/MW			Limited to Rs. 10 crores project	Nil.
Development/ Upgradation of water mills						
Mechanical mode		Rs. 30,000				
Mechanical/ Electrical mode		Rs. 60,000				

Talks with Extremist group in NER

*318. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made, if any, in the peace talks with NSCN, ULFA, BLTF and other organizations in the NER and the nature and present status of cease-fire, agreements made so far;

(b) the number of militant youths surrendered in Assam, year-wise since 1995; and

(c) the details of incentives being provided to them with number of those who got employed in Government service during this period and those who got self employed with specific support from the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) The Union Government has entered into cease fire agreements with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) (IM faction) on 25th July 1997 and with the NSCN (K. faction) on 28th April, 2001. In Assam, the Bodo Liberation Tiger (BLT) declared unilateral suspension of its operations against the security forces *w.e.f.* 14th July, 1999 and Union Home Minister announced suspension of its operations by the security forces against the BLT in the Parliament on 15th March, 2000.